

HERALD 6-23-60

Pioneer Days of old Lake County . . .

Ogden Dunes once could have been purchased for two pigs

One of Garyton's staunch pioneer residents, long since deceased, was once offered the eighty acres upon which now stand Ogden Dunes' finest homes, in exchange for two pigs he had for sale.

He refused the offer, saying "those knobs are just plain worthless," and insisted on the \$4 sale price he had set for the pigs.

THE owner of the pigs was Darus Blake, for whom Blake Road was later named, in Garyton. His homestead, which is no longer standing, was one of the first structures in the East Gary Garyton area, and was located on Central Ave. just west of Calvary Cemetery.

East Gary was called Lake Station, and there was no Garyton as yet, only the Blake home in that vicinity.

liet Cut Off came into northern Indiana, Lake Station was one of the busiest shipping points in the country for live stock grain, pork, beef, game, butter, eggs, poultry, hay, sand, cranberries and ice.

The meat and live stock, berries and produce, along with the ice, went mostly to Chicago.

LAKE Station's first building was the little railroad station opposite the Old Lake Tavern, on Central Ave. In the old records it was described this way:

"The depot grounds are the largest and most tastefully laid out of any in the county."

THE inn at the southeast corner of Hobart Road and Central Ave. (which was later to become the Old Lake Tavern) was the second building in Lake Station.

A boardwalk led from the station to the inn, and the stagecoaches passing through always stopped for the night at the inn.

BY 1852, Lake Station had a total of forty families, two dry goods stores, five grocery stores, two blacksmith shops, one wagon shop, five saloons, one shoe maker shop, two railroad wind-water elevators; five boarding houses, one basket maker, one meat market, one church, one school, one hotel and one fire engine house.

Lake Station was in the center of a thriving grain and live stock region, on the eastern part of a rich game and fur-bearing region and convenient to the lush berry country.

HUNDREDS of bushels of cranberries were marketed from the marsh lands around Central Ave. and Porter County Line Road.

For some years, after the Michigan Southern, Michigan Central and Jo

ANOTHER original building which later housed a radio and electric appliance shop for a number of years was located on the east side of Ripley, just north of Central Ave.

Lake Station's first church was St. Joseph's Catholic Church, which stood where the present St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church now is located.

A Pottawatomi tribal cemetery was located along Central Ave. east of Ripley, where the former Levi Henry home stood for many years.

Lake Station kept its name until after the city of Gary was built, when the name was changed to East Gary, and the community of Garyton began to build up.